



# National Infrastructure Protection Center NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 05 March 2003

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports that a Middle Eastern man seen taking photographs at a Tennessee Valley Authority dam was arrested with his brother on Monday in Virginia for allegedly using false information to obtain driver's licenses. (See item [1](#))
- The General Accounting Office has published report GAO-03-173 entitled "Critical Infrastructure Protection: Efforts of the Financial Services Sector to Address Cyber Threats," which addresses cyber threats facing the financial services industry and protective measures that the sector and government have taken to protect against these threats, (See item [12](#))
- The Associated Press reports the federal government is urging private pilots to watch out for suspicious behavior at small airports, and is giving them instructions on what to look for. (See item [13](#))
- The General Accounting Office has published report GAO-03-406 entitled "Customs Service Modernization: Automated Commercial Environment Progressing, But Further Acquisition Management Improvements Needed," which discusses a new trade processing system that is planned to support effective and efficient movement of goods into the United States. (See item [18](#))
- The White House has issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-5, which states that to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies, the United States Government shall establish a single, comprehensive approach to domestic incident management. (See item [28](#))
- The General Accounting Office has published report GAO-03-390 entitled "Information Technology Training: Practices of Leading Private-Sector Companies," which discusses information technology as a critical issue for federal agencies. (See item [30](#))
- Note from the Editor: The AlertCon has been increased to Level 3. Analysts have confirmed a successful exploit currently propagating in the wild and is now publicly available for distribution.
- Note from the Editor: We apologize for any inconvenience caused by our problems with PDF file generation of the 4 March 2003 daily. We have taken steps to ensure it does not happen again.

### NIPC Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *March 04, Associated Press* — **Middle Eastern man seen at TVA dam arrested with brother in Roanoke.** A Middle Eastern man seen taking photographs at a Tennessee Valley Authority dam was arrested with his brother Monday in Virginia for allegedly using false information to obtain driver's licenses. A TVA police officer saw Ahmed Helmy Mostafa, 23, taking pictures with a woman at Norris Dam hydroelectric station, about 20 miles north of Knoxville, between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. Sunday, authorities said. "He stopped them and questioned them and took their identification," TVA spokesman Gil Francis said. "But they weren't breaking any laws so he couldn't detain them." The officer remained suspicious and notified the FBI. The FBI determined that Mostafa, also known as Ahmed Mohammed Elsakaan and Ahmed Mohamed Helmy Elsakaan, was wanted with his brother, Hatem M. Elsakaan, 26, for allegedly using fake IDs to get Virginia driver's licenses. An all-points-bulletin was issued. The brothers were arrested about 5:00 p.m. Monday at a Greyhound bus station in Roanoke. Both were being held at the Roanoke City Jail for federal authorities.  
Source: <http://www.wavy.com/Global/story.asp?S=1162013>
2. *March 04, New York Times* — **U.S. Coast Guard opens inquiry into Staten Island explosion.** The U.S. Coast Guard began hearing public testimony yesterday in its formal investigation into the huge barge explosion at a Staten Island fuel depot on Feb. 21 that killed two crew members and severely injured a worker. Investigators have been focusing on a pump that may have malfunctioned, though an employee testified yesterday that the pump had been tested before the blast. The investigation, led by Cmdr. Patrick E. Little of the Coast Guard's marine safety office in Providence, R.I., is intended to determine the cause of the explosion as well as to gather information to help prevent or better respond to similar problems in the future, he said in his opening statement. Although the investigation is being coordinated by the Coast Guard, which is responsible for licensing ships and crews, the National Transportation Safety Board is also participating because it is responsible for determining the cause of major accidents, Commander Little said.  
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/04/nyregion/04BARG.html?ex=1047445200242GOOGLE>

3. *March 03, The Knoxville News-Sentinel* — **TVA to test Superconductor; machine's selling point ability to supply power without changing voltage.** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) will be the first utility to test a new superconductor machine designed to provide a steady flow of electricity, with no fluctuations in voltage, to benefit industries, businesses and homes. **"It's a much more efficient way of controlling the voltage on the system," said Terry Boston, executive vice president of TVA's transmission and power supply group, of the new product. "It regulates the voltage as loads on the system vary."** The new technology was developed by American Superconductor Corp., based in Westborough, Mass. The company has a \$600,000 contract with TVA to test the prototype of the new product. **If the system works, TVA has agreed to buy five units at a cost of \$4.1 million. The prototype is scheduled to be installed at the Gallatin Fossil Plant near Nashville in November.**

Source: [http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma\\_newsarticle1\\_national.htm?SMDOCID=bhsuper\\_2003\\_02\\_17\\_KXVL\\_0000-0467-KEYWORD.Missinga](http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_national.htm?SMDOCID=bhsuper_2003_02_17_KXVL_0000-0467-KEYWORD.Missinga)

4. *March 03, UtiliPoint International* — **Utilities increase vigilance in wake of threats.** The bombing of a power station in the Mindanao Island in the Philippines has raised fears that wanton acts of terrorism could disrupt critical infrastructure in the United States or other countries around the world. But the affects of such an attack at least here could be minimized or averted altogether, say experts. **Every utility in America has taken steps to safeguard not just the security of their facilities but also to develop robust systems that can continue to generate and deliver power if attacked. Preventing arbitrary acts is still an obstacle, and probably more a police or military concern. But the erection of barriers along with emergency practices if disaster does strike has long been underway—processes that experts say will keep the country's power flowing in times of crisis.** In the U.S., utilities have approached the situation on two fronts: protecting physical assets and information systems. The North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) has developed guidelines to help companies protect their plants and transmission systems while the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has asked NERC to develop cyber security standards to help utilities secure their information systems. **The specific steps that individual utilities are taking are highly secretive, mainly because they would not want for any intruder to breach their security. But according to papers filed by the critical infrastructure working group, each company should prioritize its facilities and assets as well as characterize potential risks based on historical accounts.**

Source: [http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma\\_newsarticle1\\_national.htm?SMDOCID=UtiliPoint+International\\_2003\\_03\\_03\\_10467325\\_88341a](http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_national.htm?SMDOCID=UtiliPoint+International_2003_03_03_10467325_88341a)

5. *March 03, PR Newswire* — **Nation's security experts help ensure reliability of power grid.** Some of the nation's brightest minds in security will help ensure the continued reliability of PJM Interconnection's electric power grid, through the formation of a Security Advisory Council. **This group of security experts will provide independent and objective evaluations, appraisals and recommendations to PJM. Specifically, the Council will advise PJM on the company's physical and cyber security operations.** The Council will consist of three members from business, government and academia who are preeminent in their fields, although initial council membership will focus on the business sector. The Council members are: Thomas W. Leo, security operations manager, Union Bank of Switzerland; Linnell E. Trimbell, senior manager, corporate security, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals; and Barry L.

Freedman, corporate security manager, Radianz. **PJM, the country's first fully functioning regional transmission organization, operates the world's largest competitive wholesale electricity market.** The company currently coordinates a pooled generating capacity of more than 72,000 megawatts and operates a wholesale electricity market with more than 200 market buyers, sellers and traders of electricity.

Source: [http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma\\_newsarticle1\\_national.htm?SMDOCID=comtex\\_2003\\_03\\_03\\_pr\\_0000-2507-pa-pjm-secr-councila](http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_national.htm?SMDOCID=comtex_2003_03_03_pr_0000-2507-pa-pjm-secr-councila)

6. *March 03, The Boston Globe* — **New England power grid shifts to new system. Officials overseeing New England's electric grid and wholesale power markets said yesterday they encountered no substantial problems over the weekend as they launched a dramatically changed version of the region's wholesale electric markets.** Independent System Operator New England (ISO), the Holyoke organization that runs the grid, moved to a new system of eight regional wholesale electric markets, replacing a single, blended wholesale market for the region. The new market, which breaks Massachusetts into three zones and has a single market for each other state, is intended to let market forces show, through higher prices, which areas need more power plants, upgraded transmission lines, or improved electric conservation programs. **ISO officials launched the new market during a time of moderate demand to allow for several weeks to respond to any operational problems before peak electric demand season arrives in summer.** While wholesale prices shot past \$75 a megawatt-hour for much of the weekend, Foley said it appeared the main reason was a recent dramatic run-up in the price of natural gas, which is used to power about half of New England's power plants.  
Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3684350](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3684350)

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## **Chemical Sector**

7. *March 04, United States Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board* — **Chemical fire evacuates local waste plant . A fire broke out at a plant in Brownstown, MI, that makes dangerous chemicals safe, and it filled the air with troubling smoke and a nasty stench.** When firefighters arrived at Permafix plant in Brownstown Township, they rolled into a visible plume of dangerous air. It made their eyes water and throats burn. Fortunately, the firefighters quickly got the upperhand on the situation and were able to eliminate a lot of the danger. **"Because it is a caustic chemical (not specified) and you add fire to the formula, and it's being airborne now, we're worried about any of that falling into the area because that could be definitely a health risk.** We were concerned about that, we did evacuate some businesses just north of here. We notified the city of Taylor which is half mile north, and the fire department got on the scene and in my opinion did an excellent job of knocking it down," said Brownstown Twp. Police Chief Dan Grant. All total, emergency crews evacuated more than 100 people from the area.  
Source: [http://www.chemsafety.gov/circ/post.cfm?incident\\_id=6409](http://www.chemsafety.gov/circ/post.cfm?incident_id=6409)
8. *March 04, United States Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board* — **Local refinery accident sends 13 to hospital. The fire at the Marathon-Ashland oil refinery in St. Paul Park (St. Paul, NM) Tuesday led to another accident Sunday. Several electricians hired to repair the damage inhaled hazardous fumes. The electricians were working in an area of**

**the refinery that boosts octane levels in gasoline, when the spill occurred.** Marathon Ashland oil spokesman Bob Behr said, "They were working on a pump, and some fluid came out of the pump, some hydrocarbons. It was about one cup worth. And it had a trace of a chemical in it, too, that vaporized." **That chemical was hydrogen fluoride, or hydrofluoric acid.** St. Paul acting 2nd district fire chief Mark Mueller said, "Hydrofluoric acid is extremely toxic, both for inhalation and topically, it can burn through your skin." Even though the electricians were wearing protective gear, it didn't stop the fumes from reaching their faces. Dr. Robert Knopp helped treat them. He said, "It was just the facial area that was exposed in a few of them. They had shields, but some even got behind the shields or they had their shields up." The refinery has several emergency showers and eyewash sites. But they weren't used because the worst exposure was to their lungs. Paramedics gave the 13 men medicine to help them breathe. Dr. Knopp said, "Several of them came in coughing, having some degree of distress." **Once at Regions' trauma center, the electricians became the first to ever use Region's new decontamination unit, which the hospital installed after 9–11.** Source: [http://www.chemsafety.gov/circ/post.cfm?incident\\_id=6404](http://www.chemsafety.gov/circ/post.cfm?incident_id=6404)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *March 04, Associated Press* — **U.S. foils Iran weapons–smuggling plot, other cases in post–Sept. 11 crackdown.** Two Taiwanese businessman have been indicted for conspiring to buy U.S. weaponry for Iran, the latest in a string of arms smuggling schemes foiled by stepped up enforcement in the aftermath of Sept. 11, U.S. authorities announced Tuesday. **An indictment handed down by a grand jury in Baltimore accuses En–Wei Eric Chang, a naturalized U.S. citizen residing in Taiwan, and David Chu, a Taiwanese resident, of trying to purchase early warning radar, Cobra attack helicopters and U.S. spy satellite photos for Tehran in violation of the U.S. embargo against Iran.** Chu was arrested during a sting operation in Guam while Chang remains a fugitive, authorities said. **Officials said the indictment was the result of a year–long arms smuggling investigation that grew out of a new cooperative program created by U.S. officials after Sept. 11 that encourages American sellers of sensitive military equipment to report suspicious inquiries and sales.** Source: [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&p\\_w\\_o\\_e\\_n\\_g\\_e\\_n\\_a\\_g\\_e\\_n\\_u\\_s\\_t\\_e\\_r\\_r\\_o\\_r\\_w\\_e\\_a\\_p\\_o\\_n\\_s\\_3](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&p_w_o_e_n_g_e_n_a_g_e_n_u_s_t_e_r_r_o_r_w_e_a_p_o_n_s_3)

10. *March 04, Los Angeles Times* — **Military wants its own intelligence operatives.** Officials said the aim is to form a deep roster of intelligence operators capable of handling a range of assignments — from reconnaissance for military operations to long–term clandestine work in which Pentagon spies would function like CIA case officers, working undercover to steal secrets and recruit informants. The number of spies is expected to be in the hundreds, although officials cautioned it could be years before a force that size is in position. **The program would be managed by the Defense Intelligence Agency, a Pentagon agency that mostly conducts intelligence analysis. Recruits would be drawn from all four branches of the military, with an emphasis on attracting those with special forces backgrounds. All would undergo the same training as CIA case officers at the agency's southern Virginia training facility for clandestine service.** Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/front/la-na-armyspy>



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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *March 04, Reuters* — **U.S. charges Yemenis with aiding al Qaeda, Hamas.** Two Yemeni citizens who were arrested in Germany in January have been charged with conspiring to provide material support to al Qaeda and Hamas, Attorney General John Ashcroft said on Tuesday. Ashcroft said Mohammed Al Hasan Al-Moayad and Mohammed Mohsen Yahya Zayed were charged in federal court with providing support to the groups, and al-Moayad — believed to be Osama bin Laden's "spiritual adviser" — was accused of personally handing al Qaeda \$20 million. **In testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Ashcroft said an FBI undercover operation developed information that al-Moayad "personally handed Osama bin Laden \$20 million from his terrorist fund-raising network."** Ashcroft said the complaint, unsealed in the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, New York, alleges that some of the money was raised from the al Farouq mosque in Brooklyn.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNewsD=2323931>

12. *January 30, General Accounting Office* — **Critical Infrastructure Protection: Efforts of the Financial Services Sector to Address Cyber Threats.** On March 4, the General Accounting Office (GAO) released a report on cyber threats facing the financial services industry and protective measures that the sector and government have taken to protect against these threats. **First, industry representatives, under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, collaboratively developed a sector strategy which discusses additional efforts necessary to identify, assess, and respond to sectorwide threats. However, the financial services sector has not developed detailed plans for implementing its strategy.** Second, the private sector's Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center was formed to facilitate sharing of cyber-related information. Third, several other industry groups are taking steps to better coordinate industry efforts and to improve information security across the sector. Several federal entities play critical roles in partnering with the private sector to protect the financial services' industry's critical infrastructures. For example, the Department of the Treasury is the sector liaison for coordinating public and private efforts and chairs the federal Financial and banking Information Infrastructure Committee, which coordinates regulatory efforts. **As part of its efforts, Treasury has taken steps designed to establish better relationships and methods of communications within the financial services sector. In its role as sector liaison, Treasury has not undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the potential use of public policy tools by the federal government to encourage increased participation by the private sector.**

Source: Report: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-173> Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03173high.pdf>

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## **Transportation Sector**

13. *March 05, Associated Press* — **U.S. urges vigilance at small airports. The federal government is urging private pilots to watch out for suspicious behavior at small airports and giving them instructions on what to look for.** The Airport Watch program is a joint effort by the Transportation Security Administration and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. Plans for the program were announced last fall and details were being unveiled Tuesday. There are 18,000 private landing facilities in the United States. **They are seen as potentially vulnerable to terrorists because many have little or no security.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A40011-2003Mar 4.html>

14. *March 04, Associated Press* — **Philippine blast kills 19 including one American. A bomb exploded Tuesday at an airport in the southern Philippines, killing at least 19 people, including an American missionary, and wounding nearly 150, authorities said. The government called it a "brazen act of terrorism."** Three Americans – a Southern Baptist missionary and her two children – were among the wounded. Many of the injured were in serious condition, and officials feared the death toll could rise. The dead included a boy, a girl, 10 men and seven women. No one claimed responsibility for the blast at Davao airport on Mindanao island. **But the military has blamed Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels for recent violence, including a car-bombing at nearby Cotabato airport last month that killed one woman. MILF spokesman Eid Kabalu denied his group was responsible.** He condemned the attack and said the MILF was ready to cooperate in an investigation. A statement from President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said police detained "several men" in connection with the blast.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38865-2003Mar 4.html>

15. *March 04, Pioneer Press (Minnesota)* — **Screening not slowing bags.** Mishandled airline baggage reports fell nationwide in January — even as federal employees started to screen tens of millions of checked bags for explosives that month. In January 2002, there were 4.69 reports of mishandled bags per 1,000 passengers, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. But this past January, that rate fell to 4.53, according to a DOT report released Monday. **The industry-wide decline from January 2002 levels suggests that the Transportation Security Administration has been generally successful so far in screening all checked bags without increasing the rate of lost, damaged, delayed or pilfered bags.**

Source: <http://www.twincities.com/mld/pioneerpress/5308634.htm>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

16. *March 04, Associated Press* — **DC postal center called anthrax-free. Anthrax has been eliminated from the contaminated Brentwood mail handling center in Washington, DC, the Postal Service said Tuesday.** The center, closed since October 2001, could reopen as soon as this summer, said Tom Day, chief of engineering for the post office. Of 5,029 environmental samples taken in the building since chlorine dioxide gas was pumped into the building, none has shown any sign of anthrax, Day said. Another mail facility, in Hamilton Township, N.J., was also contaminated and will be treated next.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-postal-anthrax0304mar04.1.2100885.story?coll=la%2Dap%2Dtopnews%2Dheadlines>

17. *March 03, San Diego Union–Tribune* — **Navy plans floating security barriers in San Diego Bay. The Navy is planning to expand security zones around ships moored in San Diego Bay and fortify them with floating barriers as a hedge against terrorist attacks.** The measures are being taken to thwart contact by small vessels with naval ships and to avert an attack like the one on the destroyer Cole in 2000. The barriers would be installed over the next several months and remain in place indefinitely, according to a Navy official who requested anonymity. The barriers would be installed off the Naval Amphibious Base at Coronado, the 32nd Street Naval Station and the Point Loma Naval Submarine Base. **Navy officials said the barriers would prevent recreational boats and commercial vessels from harm during naval operations in addition to increasing security.**

Source: [http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20030303-9999\\_1m3barrier.html](http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20030303-9999_1m3barrier.html)

18. *February 28, General Accounting Office* — **Customs Service Modernization: Automated Commercial Environment Progressing, But Further Acquisition Management Improvements Needed.** The U.S. Customs Service is conducting a multiyear, multibillion dollar project, the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), a new trade processing system that is planned to support effective and efficient movement of goods into the United States. By congressional mandate, Customs' expenditure plans for ACE must meet certain conditions, including being reviewed by the General Accounting Office (GAO). On March 4, the GAO released a study that addresses whether Customs' latest plan satisfies these conditions and provides observations about the plan and Customs' efforts to implement GAO's open recommendations for improving ACE management. Customs' November 2002 ACE expenditure plan, the fourth in a series of legislatively required plans, provides for certain project management tasks as well as the definition, design, and development of the first release of the second of four planned ACE increments. GAO's analysis of the plan shows that it meets the legislative conditions imposed by the Congress. However, **Customs has been slow to correct weaknesses in two areas fundamental to effective acquisition management—people and processes. These weaknesses increase the risk that ACE will be late, cost more than necessary, and not perform as intended.** Customs has made slow progress in implementing key acquisition practices, such as project office management and acquisition risk management, which GAO first recommended Customs do in 1999. Additionally, Customs' ACE contractor is conducting system tests in accordance with best practices, initial test results are positive, and indicators suggest the contractor is delivering a quality product. However, Customs is not employing independent verification and validation (IV&V) in overseeing ACE testing, which is one way to mitigate the acquisition weaknesses cited above. **Without IV&V, Customs states that it is relying on the contractor's reputation and maturity level as guarantors of system quality, which is not adequate for a complex and risky program like ACE.**

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-406>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

19. *March 04, Mobile Register* — **Mercury turns up in more Alabama waters.** State regulators have discovered new evidence of mercury contaminated fish in a number of south Alabama



streams, including the Blackwater River in Baldwin County and another Blackwater River in Escambia County, the Middle River in the Mobile–Tensaw Delta, and Big Escambia Creek in Escambia County. **Data released Monday from the state's annual fish–tissue monitoring program revealed at least some mercury contaminated fish in nine south Alabama water bodies. All are likely to be included in the growing list of state areas with fish consumption advisories, which is issued by the state health department, typically a month or two after the test results are made public.** One fish caught in Escambia County's Blackwater River had mercury levels nearly four times higher than the safe limit. That fish weighed only a half pound, according to the data sheet, seeming to defy the conventional wisdom that only larger, older fish have serious mercury contamination. **Some of the highest numbers, however, came from sampling in the Olin Basin on the Tombigbee River in Washington County, just above that river's convergence with the Delta. All of the seven largemouth bass caught there had mercury levels at least four times higher than the state's safe level, and one had mercury levels nearly 10 times the safe level.**

Source: [http://www.al.com/news/mobileregister/index.ssf?/xml/story.ssf/html\\_standard.xml?/base/news/1046773148225530.xml](http://www.al.com/news/mobileregister/index.ssf?/xml/story.ssf/html_standard.xml?/base/news/1046773148225530.xml)

20. *March 03, Iowa Farm Bureau* — **EPA approves biotech corn for controlling rootworm. A new biotech corn variety that eliminates the need for corn rootworm insecticides has been announced and will be planted on 1 million acres in 2003.** YieldGard rootworm was formally registered for use on 2003 crops by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Feb. 24. YieldGard has also received clearance from the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The new biotech variety gives farmers this spring another tool in their arsenal to battle yield–reducing insects. Currently, farmers have available biotech corn carrying the Bt gene to reduce corn borer damage. The YieldGard variety also contains the Bt bacteria, which is found in the soil. **Researchers estimate that corn rootworms cause about \$1 billion in damage and control measures annually to the U.S. corn crop. An estimated 32 million acres have rootworm infestation with 14 million acres treated annually.** In 2001, growers applied more than 50 million pounds of rootworm insecticide to prevent pruning of corn plant roots that interferes with water and nutrient uptake leading to stunted growth and yield loss.

Source: <http://www.ifbf.org/publication/spokesman/story.asp?number=20753ont>

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## **Food Sector**

21. *March 03, Sun Times* — **Salmonella contamination prompts milk recall. Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc. Friday announced a voluntary recall of three milk products in response to possible Salmonella contamination found during a routine inspection at its Granite City plant by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).** Consumers and food service institutions in Illinois and the greater St. Louis, Missouri area are being asked to return Prairie Farm half–pints of whole milk, half–pints of reduced fat milk and half–pints of low–fat chocolate milk to the place of purchase. IDPH has notified the Food and Drug Administration of the recall as well as local health departments in the state. **At this time, there have been no reports of illnesses linked to this voluntary recall.**

Source: [http://www.suntimesnews.com/2/news\\_archive/mar\\_03archives/0303salmonella.htm](http://www.suntimesnews.com/2/news_archive/mar_03archives/0303salmonella.htm)

## **Water Sector**

22. *March 04, Desert Sun* — **Boxer bids to protect valley water.** A bill by Senator Barbara Boxer calls for the federal government to regulate the level of the chemical perchlorate allowed in the nation's drinking water. **Boxer introduced a bill Monday that would require the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a maximum standard for perchlorate contamination in drinking water supplies by July 1, 2004. The EPA had planned to issue the new guidelines in 2006.** Perchlorate has been detected in water throughout the country but is especially prominent in Southern California, where it was widely used in factories in the Inland Empire and around Los Angeles.

Source: <http://www.thedesertsun.com/news/stories/local/1046748854.shtml>

23. *March 04, New York Times* — **Citing security, New York City closes reservoir road.** A road that runs across the top of the Kensico Reservoir in Westchester, NY is a scenic shortcut for thousands of commuters and local motorists. **This road has been identified by New York City water-supply officials as a possible terrorist target.** Some 6,000 drivers a day use the two-lane road as a convenient way around Kensico Circle, a traffic chokepoint at Valhalla, just north of White Plains, fed by a tangle of highways, including Route 22, on the reservoir's eastern edge, the Bronx River Parkway, the Saw Mill River Parkway and many local roads. The city's Department of Environmental Protection, which is responsible for protecting the city's vast watershed, closed Kensico Dam Road for almost four months after 9/11 as a possible security risk. It was reopened to cars on Jan. 4, 2002, but with a total ban on trucks and large commercial vehicles. **Now, a security analysis by the department, the Army Corps of Engineers and law enforcement officials has prompted a new move by the city to close the road permanently to all traffic as a means of protecting the 1,845-foot dam from a car bomb, city and county officials said Monday.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/04/nyregion/04KENS.html?ntem=ail1>

## **Public Health Sector**

24. *March 04, Associated Press* — **Mosquito experts: West Nile is just the beginning. Hundreds of bug experts have gathered for a six-day conference to discuss ways to control mosquitoes, amid fears of future West Nile virus outbreaks and concern that the insects could bring other diseases to the country.** Last year, the United States recorded more than 4,000 cases of West Nile and 256 deaths from the mosquito-borne virus that causes fevers and aches and can lead to potentially fatal swelling of the brain. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, said West Nile is here to stay and other diseases are likely to follow. The world is more mobile, "fast and furiously" transporting exotic products, animals and bugs from continent to continent, he said Monday. **As a result, there is an increased chance of spreading more mosquito-borne diseases such as yellow fever, dengue fever, malaria, encephalitis, and Rift Valley fever.**

Osterholm said scientists should be working to predict what the next diseases might be, trying to prevent them and preparing to fight them.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/HEALTH/conditions/03/04/battling.mos.quitoes.ap/>

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## **Government Sector**

25. *March 04, New York Times* — **Ridge warns Iraq war could raise terror threat.** The Bush administration on Tuesday offered its bluntest warning that a war with Iraq could bring new terrorist attacks within the United States, with Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge acknowledging, "There may be more threats, there have been more threats, if we go to war." **Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups have vowed to carry out strikes in the United States in the event of an American war against Iraq. And with his comments today, Ridge made it clear that the administration took the threats seriously.** Senior administration officials said that Ridge's comments today were an effort to lay the public groundwork for a decision soon to put the nation on a higher level of alert and take other actions to prepare for a domestic terrorist strike. **The officials said that while there was no solid evidence of an imminent domestic terrorist threat, intelligence agencies were reporting from a variety of sources – including interviews with captured al Qaeda terrorists and electronic surveillance – that terror groups hoped to time a major attack to the beginning of an American military campaign against Iraq.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/04/politics/04HOME.html>

26. *March 04, Government Executive* — **Cochran to head homeland appropriations subcommittee.** Sen. Thad Cochran, R–Miss., ended speculation about his future plans on the Appropriations Committee Monday night, **confirming that he intends to head the new Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee.** A spokesman for Senate Appropriations ranking member Robert Byrd, D–W.Va., said no decision has yet been made among Democrats on possible new committee assignments, **although Byrd himself is "very interested" in the possibility of taking over as ranking member on the homeland subpanel.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0303/030403cdam1.htm>

27. *March 03, Washington Post* — **Homeland security details unveiled.** Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said on Monday that **the new department will hire 2,000 additional people to patrol the border and conduct inspections of travelers and their bags and vehicles.** Ridge also said Bush administration officials will begin talking with public employee unions as soon as this month about developing a personnel system that will give officials a strong hand in hiring, pay and promotions at the new 179,000–employee department. **Ridge said he was sensitive to concerns by unions and employees that they had not been told enough about the many changes that could affect them in the new department, which officially took shape on Jan. 24 but only began absorbing its 22 component agencies last weekend.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A35522-2003Mar 3.html>

28. *February 28, The White House* — **Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD–5.** To

prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies, **the United States Government shall establish a single, comprehensive approach to domestic incident management.** The objective of the United States Government is to ensure that all levels of government across the Nation have the capability to work efficiently and effectively together, using a national approach to domestic incident management. **In these efforts, with regard to domestic incidents, the United States Government treats crisis management and consequence management as a single, integrated function, rather than as two separate functions.** The Secretary of Homeland Security is the principal Federal official for domestic incident management. Pursuant to the Homeland Security Act of 2002, **the Secretary is responsible for coordinating Federal operations within the United States to prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.** The Secretary shall coordinate the Federal Government's resources utilized in response to or recovery from terrorist attacks, major disasters, or other emergencies if and when any one of the following four conditions applies: (1) a Federal department or agency acting under its own authority has requested the assistance of the Secretary; (2) the resources of State and local authorities are overwhelmed and Federal assistance has been requested by the appropriate State and local authorities; (3) more than one Federal department or agency has become substantially involved in responding to the incident; or (4) the Secretary has been directed to assume responsibility for managing the domestic incident by the President.

Source: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/print/200302\\_28-9.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/print/200302_28-9.html)

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

29. *March 04, New York Times* — **New York officials get advice from an expert on al Qaeda.** A terrorism expert who has studied al Qaeda for nearly 10 years lectured hundreds of senior New York City police officials on Tuesday about the group, providing his view of how it operates and how it has adapted to changes in counterterrorism strategies in recent years, several of the officials said. Rohan Gunaratna also provided a more detailed briefing to Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, his senior aides and three top aides to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, one official said. **In the smaller session, he described what he said was the terrorist group's efforts to encourage its operatives to use poisons to kill large numbers of people. He also displayed photos of specialized boats that al Qaeda had designed for suicide attacks against ships. But Gunaratna, a research fellow at the Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St. Andrews in Fife, Scotland, contended that increased information flowing from intelligence agencies and the FBI to the Police Department combined with greater public awareness had made it more difficult for al Qaeda to launch an attack in New York, officials at the larger meeting said.** In an interview on Sunday, Gunaratna said that government agencies should widely disseminate information about al Qaeda and how it operates, not only to law enforcement agencies but also to the public. "If you do not keep the public informed, they cannot be your early warning system," he said.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/04/nyregion/04EXPE.html>

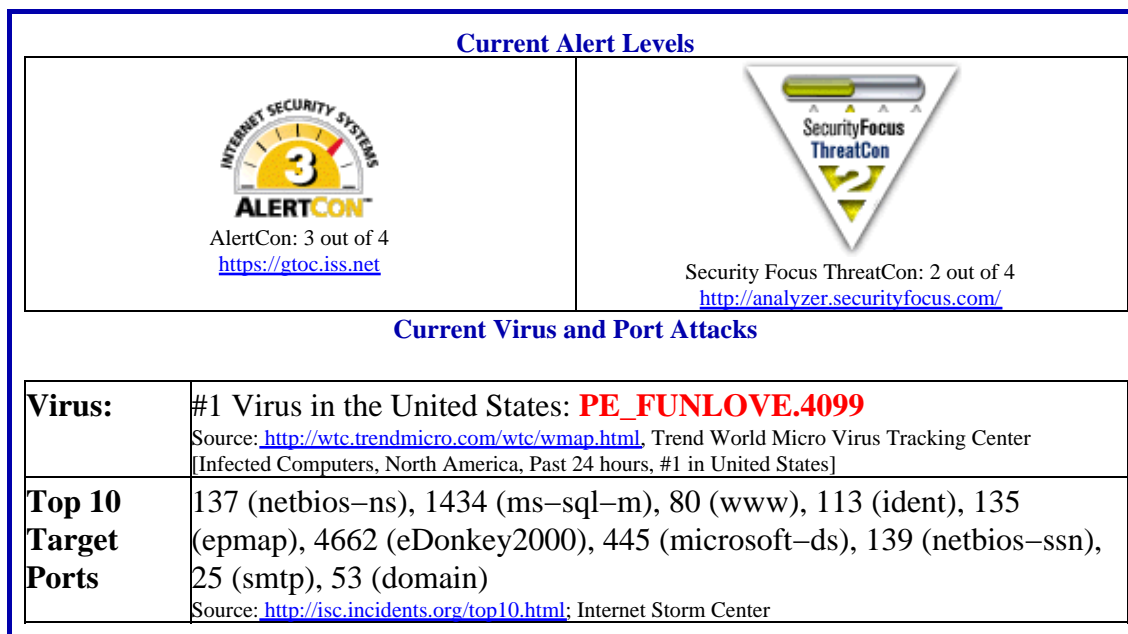
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## Information and Telecommunications Sector

30. *January 31, General Accounting Office* — **Information Technology Training: Practices of Leading Private–Sector Companies.** According to a report published on March 4 by the General Accounting Office (GAO), **the rapid pace of technological change, with its potential to transform the way the government delivers services, makes information technology (IT) human capital a critical issue for federal agencies.** GAO has identified **strategic human capital management as a high risk area for the federal government, and the demand for skilled IT workers is expected to increase over the long term.** To help federal agencies better design and implement such training programs, GAO was asked to examine private–sector practices for training both IT and non–IT professionals (e.g., business managers and other staff needing training in IT) that could be used as a basis for addressing federal efforts. **GAO identified 22 existing and emerging training practices used by leading companies to implement effective IT training.** GAO's discussions with leading private sector companies indicate that training is not simply a support function, but a strategic element in achieving corporate objectives.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-390>

### Internet Alert Dashboard



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## General Sector

31. *March 04, Washington Post* — **New U.S. embassy opens in Nairobi.** The new \$68 million U.S. Embassy that opened on Monday -- 41/2 years after terrorists bombed the previous one -- is a soaring fortress with 31/2–inch–thick bulletproof windows and walls able to withstand a blast from a 1,000–pound bomb. American architects and security officials said they couldn't have done more to fortify the building, the second–largest U.S. Embassy in Africa, after the



embassy in Cairo. On Wednesday, the new U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, will open with similar security features. That embassy was bombed the same day as the attack in Nairobi. Both attacks have been blamed on Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network. **The Nairobi building is set back more than 100 feet from the road and fitted with steel doors that resemble the ones on freezer lockers. The building will be a model for American embassies being built or renovated around the world to increasingly strict security requirements after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, officials said.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A37246-2003Mar 3.html>

32. *March 04, USA Today* — **Alleged 9/11 financier also caught.** The raid that resulted in the capture of al-Qaeda operations chief Khalid Shaikh Mohammed also netted Mustafa Ahmed al-Hawsawi, the alleged financier of the Sept. 11 attacks, two senior U.S. government sources said Monday. **Al-Hawsawi, 34, is identified as a "supporting conspirator" in the indictment of accused terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person charged in the USA in the attacks. The Saudi-born al-Hawsawi is said to have routed thousands of dollars to the Sept. 11 hijackers to fund the operation. In the days before the attacks, hijackers allegedly wired more than \$25,000 in excess money back to al-Hawsawi in the United Arab Emirates.**

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-03-03-mohammed-usat\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-03-03-mohammed-usat_x.htm)

33. *March 03, US News and World Report* — **Homegrown terrorists: how a Hezbollah cell made millions in sleepy Charlotte, N.C.** . Charlotte, a fast-growing city of half a million, had few Muslims and even fewer Shiites, the sect followed by most Hezbollah backers. Yet, somehow, one of the world's most formidable terrorist organizations had set up shop in Charlotte. **Last week, Hammoud and five others were sentenced in one of the most significant terrorism prosecutions in recent years; Hammoud received an extraordinary 155 years in prison for racketeering and "material support" of Hezbollah. Begun before 9/11, Bell's investigation has helped transform the way U.S. law enforcement is tackling terrorism at home. The case also offers an inside look at the U.S. operations of Hezbollah—the Iranian-backed militia that until 9/11 had killed more Americans than any other terrorist group.** The Charlotte gang is one of a dozen Hezbollah cells across the United States, law enforcement officials say. Those cells include a hard core of several dozen militants—a number with military training in Hezbollah camps—plus hundreds of supporters. **Over the years, Hezbollah's U.S. backers are believed to have raised millions of dollars for the group, money often derived from criminal acts. "They are involved in a lot of different crimes here," says a top FBI official.** Far-reaching probes, sparked by the Charlotte case, are underway in the Detroit and Los Angeles areas, home to the nation's largest communities of Lebanese-Americans. On February 4, authorities in Detroit announced indictments of 11 people allegedly tied to the Charlotte smuggling ring; two of them stand accused of funneling money to Hezbollah.

Source: <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/030310/usnews/10hez.htm>

34. *March 03, Agence France-Presse* — **Interpol on alert.** The secretary general of Interpol, Ronald Noble, has urged police forces worldwide to be ready for terrorist attacks in the event of a war on Iraq. **Noble also acknowledged over the weekend that he had ordered Interpol's general secretariat in Lyon, France, and its regional offices in Africa, Asia and the Americas to be placed on a higher state of alert if war broke out. "Simple prudence dictates**

a heightened level of awareness," he said in remarks at Tufts University. "Interpol and the world's police forces must prepare themselves for any potential increase in terrorist attacks if there is a war," Noble said. **Interpol believes targets in countries supporting the war could be under higher risk of terrorist attack.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/03/international/03TBRI.html?>

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